

Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care NEWBORN WITHDRAWAL PROJECT

Your Pregnancy and Prescribed Treatments for Opioid Dependence

It is great that you are taking care of both yourself and your baby by using medication to treat opiate addiction while you are pregnant. The baby is exposed to these drugs during the pregnancy.

There are some things you should know about what could happen after the baby is born.

- Your baby may go through withdrawal after the delivery and the nurses and doctors will be looking for symptoms of withdrawal and they will teach you about this after you deliver.
- If signs are present in your baby, the medical staff will work with you to create a plan for how best to care for your baby.
- Your baby may not be ready to go home with you when you are discharged.
- Sometimes another drug is needed to treat the baby while he/she recovers from withdrawal. Sometimes the medication that is used is another narcotic.

Signs you may see as the baby goes through withdrawal are:

- Extreme fussiness, and/or screaming
- Tremors or shaky, jerky movements
- Not sleeping
- Diarrhea
- Problems with feeding
- Runny nose, trouble breathing or forgets to breath
- Weight loss, or does not gain weight normally

Prior to discharge, your baby may have many of the above symptoms, just a few, or even none.

Your baby can be considered for discharge when he or she is:

- Consistently gaining weight
- Taking enough food to grow and develop
- Showing signs that withdrawal symptoms are controlled

Every baby is different. Time in the hospital varies from 2-90 days. While your baby is in the hospital, it is important to be with your baby and learn many ways to comfort and care for your baby before discharge.

Important Resources

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
 - www.samhsa.gov
- SAMHSA's National Helpline
 - 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
- 211 Wisconsin: Dial 2-1-1 for help finding resources in your local area
- Wisconsin Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Hotline 1-800-722-2295
 - Twenty-four hours/day, 7 days/week.
 - Provides information and help finding services in your area for women before, during, and after pregnancy and for children.
- Call to find out if you are eligible for BadgerCare Plus, WIC, and many other programs.



McCONNELL HALL 1010 MOUND STREET MADISON, WI 53715
608-417-6060 WWW.PERINATALWEB.ORG WAPC@PERINATALWEB.ORG